

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

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REPORT NO.**

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. All requests for visas for East German businessmen who wish to travel abroad and for foreign businessmen who desire to enter East Germany are processed by the Department for Business Travel in the Ministry for Foreign and Domestic Trade. A statistical record is kept of all trips applied for, approved and made. A copy of this record is given to the Soviet High Commissioner for Germany.

2. Formalities for travel abroad: An informal application is submitted to the VEH-DIA² together with four filing cards on which exact personal data is given (including past and present party membership, purpose and duration of the trip), a life history and a recommendation of the establishment's Party organization (Betriebsparteiorganisation). The VEH -DIA passes these papers, together with a recommendation from its director, to the Business Travel Department of the Ministry for Foreign and Domestic Trade. The Business Travel Department collects recommendations from the competent branch departments and passes the file cards, the recommendation and life history, plus an approving letter from the Ministry, to the Ministry for the Interior, Main Administration for the People's Police. Here the Department for Civilian Passes and Registration (P.M.) continues the processing. This department has the person concerned checked by the State Security Service. Final approval or disapproval is then relayed to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs - Consular Department, which in turn informs the Ministry for Foreign and Domestic Trade.

3. The Ministry for Foreign and Domestic Trade takes care of acquiring the necessary visas for travel in western countries [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] Entry visas for the People's Democracies are picked up by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Entry permits for western countries which have representation in one of the People's Democracies are also handled by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

4. The Budget Office of the Ministry for Foreign and Domestic Trade provides the foreign currency for employees of the Ministry. For all other travel, the VEH - DIA concerned provides the currency.

5. Foreigners who wish to enter East Germany on business trips submit an informal application to the competent VEH - DIA, together with four file cards and four photographs. The VEH - DIA gives these papers, together with the director's recommendation, to the Business Travel Department, which processes the application exactly the

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same way as those for East German travel abroad. The approval or disapproval of the People's Police is usually at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs within two or three days, where it can be picked up by the incoming traveler.



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- 1  Comment: In German: Abteilung Geschäftsreisen.
- 2  Lebend. Volkswirtschaftliches Handelsunternehmen Deutscher Innen- und
Außenhandel.

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